

chemicals, explosives, jet fuel, poisons, and toxic wastes. These trucks are required to only meet Mexico's lax safety standards. For example, Mexico does not require tractor-trailers to have front brakes. Only a last minute decision in 1995 by President Clinton, under pressure from myself and other Members of Congress, prevents Mexican tractor-trailer trucks from entering the United States.

Perhaps if our trading partners had seen some improvement in the standard of living of their citizens during the last 3 years, there would have been some benefit from NAFTA. However, the study paints a grim picture of the free trade "boom" for the people of Mexico and Canada.

Despite the flow of American jobs and capital to our north and south, the average worker has benefited little, if not at all.

In Mexico, the average wage has plummeted since 1993, from \$2.40 to \$1.51 per hour. In addition, the last 3 years have seen the loss of 2 million jobs and the destruction of 28,000 small businesses.

Part of these problems are attributable to the Mexican peso devaluation of 1995, but as the "Failed Experiment" explains so well, the financial crisis was an inevitable part of Mexico's NAFTA plan. The Mexican Government purposely kept the peso's value too high for too long for a number of reasons, but mainly in the hopes of impressing upon the world that its economy was in better shape than it really was. The bottom had to fall out of the peso after the treaty was approved in order for Mexico to attract the foreign investment it so desperately wanted and make Mexican exports cheaper to other countries. Unfortunately, this type of cynical mentality still runs Mexico, and the signs for another peso crash and more misery for working Mexicans are on the horizon.

Meanwhile, our northern neighbor, Canada, has seen a steady decline in its standard of living since joining the United States as the original signatories of NAFTA in 1989. The Canadians have been mired in a recession with unemployment hovering at around 10 percent and the country's comprehensive social safety net is being dismantled in the name of competitiveness. Canada's policies and practices have been harmonized with the rest of North America's—downward.

As Congress examines extending fast-track negotiating authority, I urge my colleagues to read "Failed Experiment" and keep in mind the unpleasant track record of this trade pact for not only the United States, but all its participants.

IN MEMORY OF DALE JOHNSON

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I recently learned of the untimely passing of Dale Johnson, a constituent of mine from East Schodack, NY, who was a distinguished member of his community.

I knew Dale as the founder and chairman of the Second Amendment Research Group, a not-for-profit educational organization in New York State. This was a group that sought to educate itself and others about the right of citi-

zens to bear arms. Dale also was the vice chairman of the Schodack Conservative Party; a life member of the National Rifle Association; treasurer of the Historical Society of Esquatack; a member of We The People, a New York organization dedicated to ensuring a fair and just State constitutional convention; and a strong supporter and promoter of women's involvement in hunting and shooting sports.

Dale certainly made an impact upon his community. He was active in protecting and strengthening our constitutional rights. Dale also took part in preserving the historical treasures of our community. Anyone who knew him recognized that he stood up for and acted upon the issues and things he felt strongly about.

Dale was a family man, a level-headed and rational human being, and intellectually honest in his pursuits. While he knew how to be a pragmatist, he never sacrificed his core beliefs and values. He will be remembered as a truly great American.

I have attached the words which Dale drafted prior to his death that instructed his family on what to do in case he became incapacitated. I include this because his words say better than anyone can about the type of philosophy by which Dale lived his life. Maybe we can all learn something by taking a moment to read it.

W. DALE JOHNSON, JULY 16, 1943–JULY 27, 1997

At a certain moment a Doctor will determine my brain has ceased to function and for all intent and purposes my physical life has stopped.

When that happens, do not attempt to instill artificial life into my body by use of a machine, and don't call this my "death-bed." Call it my "Bed of Life." Only my body has ceased to be. My spirit and love go on. It is in the hearts of all of you.

If you must bury something bury my faults, my weaknesses, and my human imperfections.

My soul I leave to God, to you my survivors I leave, all the lessons I have taught, my strength, my love, and my memories. If you want to remember me, keep me in your heart for that is where I truly live. Give to those that need you and are weaker, and learn from my mistakes. Never pass upon the opportunity to tell loved ones and friends how proud you are of them and how much you love them—always have a hand ready to extend for support and a hug to reassure in times of trial. Stand up and act on the things you feel most strongly about. Always remember silence is the same as acceptance.

When you bury my mortal remains, do not grieve, for I will not be there. My soul will be on the wind, my laughter in the sunshine, my warmth will be in the summer rain. Be joyful for the time we had, rejoice in my freedom, I am now free of the world's petty problems and I have fought all my fights. I am free to soar with the eagles and reach out and touch the face of God.

SOUTHERN INDIANA'S ECONOMY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday,

August 27, 1997, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

BOOSTING SOUTHERN INDIANA'S ECONOMY

Southern Indiana has had a solid record of economic development in recent years. Unemployment in this area is at record lows—2% in some counties, the lowest in a generation. The I-65 corridor from Columbus to the Ohio River is one of the fastest growing areas in the Midwest. Three huge industrial projects—Toyota, AK Steel, and Waupaca—have chosen southern Indiana for their home. And wages are beginning to increase, providing more hard-working families with a living wage. Yet despite the progress, a variety of challenges remain as we look ahead to the future and try to enhance the quality of life for ordinary Hoosiers.

BENEFITS OF SOUTHERN INDIANA

Southern Indiana has a lot going for it. Our infrastructure is good—two major interstate highways, a reliable energy supply, and a good system of local roads, bridges, airports, and water-sewer systems. Economic development simply cannot happen without good infrastructure.

Our communities are friendly. Southern Indiana is a good place to work, live, and raise a family. We do not have overwhelming problems of drugs, crime, AIDS, and poverty, as many areas of the country do. Southern Indiana boasts outstanding hospitals, good schools, a world-class public university system, excellent recreational opportunities, good water resources, and many other advantages. If we want to continue economic growth, we must continue to build on these strengths.

CHALLENGES

But that may not be enough—not enough for the world ahead of us. The world is changing, and that change is accelerating. New challenges lie ahead for businesses and workers, as rapid changes in technology, new ways of delivering services, and tough foreign competition alter the economic landscape across the country.

It is no longer enough to have a strong back, a good work ethic, and even a high school education. Today's factory worker needs to have advanced mathematics, computer skills, and teamwork skills.

In today's globalized economy, national economies are more integrated, tariffs have fallen, and technological barriers between countries have been eliminated with the advances in telecommunications and global transportation. Indiana businesses no longer compete just with Tennessee or Michigan—they compete with Turkey and Malaysia.

So who wins in this new competitive world? Much more is needed than good natural resources. In recent years I have sensed a disturbing trend. In almost every plant I have visited recently, plant managers tell me they are concerned that there are now limits on their production, or soon will be, because they cannot find enough good workers. In the days ahead, the community with the most competitive human infrastructure wins the economic development race—the town with the most highly-skilled workers, the region with the best schools and skill training programs. More than ever before, education is key to economic development.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

We have a good education system in southern Indiana. Many of our students go on to perform well at top universities. They become scholars, engineers, and entrepreneurs. It is not the top students, or even the top half of the students, I am worried about. They are bright and well-motivated, and will prosper. But what worries me are the other students—those in the bottom half, those